

[15 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

proposal has been processed for obtaining the requisite clearances. The work would be taken up once it receives requisite clearances and is included in the Budget.

Beautification of Muzaffarnagar station

2710. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the beautification of Muzaffarnagar railway station in Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tendering process has since been completed and work has been awarded; and

(d) what is the quantum of fund proposed to be spent on the beautification drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the proposal for beautification of Muzaffarnagar railway station in Uttar Pradesh include the following works:

(i) Improvement to circulating area of Muzaffarnagar station to remove congestion, and

(ii) Replacement of Galvanised Iron sheet of waiting hall with meta colour sheet.

(c) and (d) Tendering process has been taken up and Rs.35 lakhs has been earmarked for beautification of Muzaffarnagar station.

Electrification of Trichy-Kanyakumari rail line

2711. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would approve the electrification of the railway line between Trichy to Kanyakumari;

(b) the total allotment made for various ongoing and new projects in Tamil Nadu and total expenditure as on 1st November, 2006;

(c) whether Government would consider running electric trains from Madurai to Dindigul, Madurai to Virudhunagar and Madurai to Rameshwaram for the convenience of the commuters; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) At present, there is no proposal to electrify Railway line between Trichy to Kanyakumari.

(b) Total allotment made on projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu during 2006-07 is Rs.479.25 crore. The actual expenditure during the year would be known at the end of the year after finalisation of annual accounts. However, expenditure of about Rs.3500 crore had incurred on these projects upto March, 2006.

(c) and (d) Not yet. Electrification of railway track is a need based exercise which is reviewed on a continuous basis. Investment on Railway Electrification is primarily based on the traffic requirements of the system and those sections which are considered necessary are taken up for electrification. However, at present there is no proposal to electrify Madurai-Dindigul, Madurai-Virudhunagar and Madurai-Rameshwaram railway lines.

Selling of tickets by Cyber Cafes

2712. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTS have engaged number of 'Cyber Cafes' for selling train tickets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is selling e-tickets through SIFY Cyber Cafes.

Gauge conversion in Rajasthan

2713. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time-frame for the completion of gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan;